Most agree that we confront two conditions in our contemporary context. 1. Our social environment is changing faster, contains high degrees of pluralism, has increased interdependency and potential for conflict, and is highly mediated. 2. Increased pressure is put on our decision processes for decisions that are creative, evoke high degrees of commitment and compliance, and are customized to local circumstances. Effective multi-party collaboration is essential given these contexts. Often, however, the conceptions and practices of communication and the structure and processes of governance and decision making were built for another time and place with different conditions. The talk will explore alternative conceptions and interaction designs needed to develop more effective stakeholder interactions and collaborations given these contexts. This will include developing a constitutive model of communication and showing its application to complex situations like the construction of safer nuclear power plants in developing countries.